Strange and Remarkable

Propheſies and Predictions

Of the Holy, Learned, and excellent

James Uſher,

Late L. Arch-Biſhop of *Armagh*, and Lord Primate of *Ireland*.

Giving an Account of his Foretelling

I. The Rebellion in *Ireland* Forty Years before it came to paſs.

II. The Confuſions and Miſeries of *England*, in Church and State.

III. The Death of King *Charles* the Firſt.

IV. His own Poverty and want.

V. The Diviſions in *England* in matters of Religion.

Laſtly, Of a great and Terrible Perſecution which ſhall fall upon the Reformed Churches by the Papiſts, wherein the then Pope ſhould be chiefly concerned.

Written by the Perſon who heard it from this Excellent Perſons own Mouth, and now publiſht earneſtly to perſwade us to that Repentance and Reformation which can only prevent our Ruin and Deſtruction.

And the Lord ſaid, Shall I hide from Abraham *the thing which I do?* Gen. 18. 17.

Licenſed, November the 16th.

LONDON, Printed for *K. G.* 1678.

Strange and Remarkable Predictions *of that Holy, Learned, and excellent* Biſhop, James Uſher late *Lord Primate of* Ireland.

THE Author of the Life of this Excellent and Worthy Primate and Arch-Biſhop, gives an Account, that among other extraordinary gifts and graces, which it pleaſed the Almighty to beſtow upon him, he was wonderfully endued with a Spirit of Prophecy, whereby he gave out ſeveral true Predictions and Propheſies of things a great while before they came to paſs, whereof ſome we have ſeen fulfilled, and others remain yet to be accompliſhed. And though he was one that abhor'd Enthuſiaſtick Notions, being too Learned, Rational, and knowing, to admit of ſuch idle Freaks and Whimſies. Yet he profeſt, 'That ſeveral times in his Life he had ma-'ny things impreſt upon his mind, concerning future Events, 'with ſo much warmneſs and importunity, that he was not 'able to keep them ſecret, but lay under an unavoidable 'neceſſity to make them known.

From which Spirit he foretold the *Iriſh* Rebellion Forty years before it came to paſs, with the very time when it ſhould break forth, in a Sermon Preached in *Dublin* in 1601. where from *Ezek.* 4. 6. diſcourſing concerning the Prophets bearing the iniquity of *Judah* forty days, the Lord therein appointed a day for a year: he made this direct Applycation in Relation to the connivance at Popery at that time. *From this year* (ſays he) *will I reckon the ſin of* Ireland, *that thoſe whom you now imbrace, ſhall be your Ruin, and you ſhall bear this Iniquity.* Which Prediction proved exactly true, for from that time 1601, to the year 1641, was juſt Forty years, in which it is notoriouſly known, that the Rebellion and Deſtruction of *Ireland* happened, which was acted by thoſe Popiſh

Popish Priests, and other Papists, which were then connived at. And of this Sermon the Bishop reserved the Notes, and put a Note thereof in the Margent of his Bible; and for 20 Years before, he still lived in the Expectation of the Fulfilling thereof: And the nearer the Time was, the more confident he was, that it was near Accomplishment, though there was no visible appearance of any such thing: And (sayes Dr. *Bernard*) the Year before the Rebellion broke forth, the Bishop taking his leave of me, being then going from *Ireland* to *England*, he advised me to a serious Preparation; for I should see heavy Sorrows and Miseries, before I saw him again; which he delivered with as great Confidence, as if he had seen it with his Eyes: Which seems to verify that of the Prophet, *Amos* 3. 7. *Surely, the Lord will do nothing, but he will reveal it to his Servants, the Prophets.*

From this Spirit of Prophesie, he fore-saw the Changes and Miseries of *England* in Church and State; for having in one of his Books, (called *De Prim. Eccl. Brit.*) given a larg account of the Destruction of the Church and State of the *Brittains*, by the *Saxons*, about 550 Years after Christ: He gives this among other Reasons, why he insisted so largely upon it; That he fore-saw, that a like Judgment was yet behind, if timely Repentance and Reformation did not prevent it: And he would often Mourn upon the Fore-sight of this, long before it came.

From this Spirit he gave Mournful Intimations of the Death of our late Soveraign, *Charles* the First; of whom he would be often speaking with Fear and Trembling, even when the King had the greatest Success: And would therefore constantly pray, and gave all advice possible, to prevent any such thing.

From this Spirit he fore-saw his own Poverty in worldly things; and this he would often speak of, with admiration to the Hearers, when he was in his greatest Prosperity; which the Event did most certainly verify.

From this Spirit he Predicted the Divisions and Confusions in *England* in Matters of Religion, and the sad consequences thereof; some of which we have seen fulfill'd: An

I pre

I pray God, the reſt which he feared, may not alſo be accompliſhed upon us.

Laſtly, From this Spirit he fore-told, That the greateſt ſtroke upon the Reformed Churches was yet to come; and that the time of the utter Ruin of the See of *Rome*, ſhould be when ſhe thought her ſelf moſt ſecure: And as to this Laſt, I ſhall add a brief Account from the Perſons own hand, who was concerned therein; which followeth in theſe Words:

The Year before this Learned and Holy Primate, A. Biſhop *Uſher* dyed, I went to him, and earneſtly deſired him, to give me in Writing his Apprehenſions concerning Juſtification, and Sanctification by Chriſt; becauſe I had formerly heard him Preach upon thoſe Points, wherein he ſeemed to make thoſe great Myſteries more intelligible to my mean Capacity, than any thing which I had ever heard from any other: But becauſe I had but an imperfect and confuſed Remembrence of the Particulars, I took the boldneſs to importune him, that he would pleaſe to give a brief account of them in Writing; whereby I might the better imprint them in my Memory; of which he would willingly have excuſed himſelf, by declaring his intentions of not writing any more: Adding, That if he did write any thing, it ſhould not exceed above a Sheet or two: But upon my continued Importunity, I at laſt obtained his Promiſe.

He coming to Town ſome time after, was pleaſed to give me a Viſit at my own Houſe; where I failed not to challenge the Benefit of the Promiſe he had made me: He replyed; *That he had not writ, and yet he could not charge himſelf with any Breach of Promiſe: For* (ſaid he) *I did begin to write; but when I came to write of Sanctification, that is, of the New Creature, which God formeth by his Spirit in every Soul, which he doth truly Regenerate, I found ſo little of it wrought in my ſelf, that I could ſpeak of it only as Parrots by Rote, & without the knowledge & underſtanding of what I might have expreſt; & therefore, I durſt not preſume to proceed any further upon it.*

And when I ſeemed to ſtand amazed, to hear ſuch an Humble Confeſſion from ſo great and experienced a Chriſtian, He added; *I muſt tell you, We do not well underſtand what Sanctification*

ctification and the New Creature are; It is no leſs then for a man to be brought to an entire Reſignation of his will to the will of God, and to live in the Offering up of his Soul continually in the flames of Love, as a whole burnt Offering to Chriſt, and how little (ſays he) *are many of thoſe who profeſs Chriſtianity experimentally acquainted with this work on their Souls.*

By this Diſcourſe, I conceived he had very excellently and clearly diſcovered to me that part of Sanctification which he was unwilling to write.

I then preſumed to enquire of him what his preſent apprehenſions were concerning a very great Perſecution which ſhould fall upon the Church of God in theſe Nations of *England, Scotland,* and *Ireland,* of which this Reverend Primate had ſpoken with great confidence many years before, when we were in the higheſt and fulleſt ſtate of outward Peace and Settlement. I asked him whether he did believe thoſe ſad times to be paſt, or that they were yet to come, To which he anſwered, *That they were yet to come, and that he did as confidently expect it, as ever he had done,* adding, *That this ſad Perſecution would fall upon all the Proteſtant Churches of Europe*; I replyed, That I did hope it might have been paſt as to theſe Nations of ours, ſince I thought, that though we, who are the People thereof, have been puniſhed much leſs than our ſins have deſerved, and that our late Wars had made far leſs devaſtations, then War commonly brings upon thoſe Countries where it pleaſeth God in Judgement to ſuffer it; yet we muſt needs acknowledge, that many great Houſes had been Burnt, Ruined, and left without Inhabitants, many great Families impoveriſhed and undone, and many Thouſand Lives alſo had been loſt in that bloody War, and that *Ireland* and *Scotland,* as well as *England,* had drunk very deep of the Cup of Gods Anger, even to the overthrow of the Government, and the utter Deſolation almoſt of a very great part of thoſe Countries.

But this Holy man, turning to me, and fixing his Eyes upon me with that ſerious and ireful look which he uſually had when he ſpake Gods word and not his own; and when the Power of God ſeemed to be upon him, and to conſtrain

him

him to ſpeak, which I could eaſily diſcern much to differ from the countenance where with he uſually ſpake to me; He ſaid thus.

Fool not your ſelf with ſuch hopes, for I tell you, all you have yet ſeen, hath been but the beginning of ſorrows to what is yet to come upon the Proteſtant *Churches of Chriſt, who will ere long fall under a ſharper Perſecution than ever yet has upon them; and therefore* (ſaid he to me) *look you be not found in the Outward Court, but a worſhipper in the Temple before the Altar, for Chriſt will meaſure all thoſe that profeſs his Name, & call themſelves his People; & the Outward worſhippers he will leave out, to be trodden down by the Gentiles. The Outward Court* (ſays he) *is the formal Chriſtian, whoſe Religion lies in performing the outſide duties of Chriſtianity, without having an inward Life & Power of Faith and love, uniting them to Chriſt, and theſe God will leave to be trodden down, and ſwept away by the Gentiles; But the worſhippers within the Temple and before the Altar, are thoſe who do indeed worſhip God in Spirit and in Truth, whoſe Souls are made his Temples, and he is honoured and adored in the moſt inward thoughts of their hearts, and they Sacrifice their Luſts and vile affections, yea, and their own wills to him; and theſe God will hide in the hollow of his Hand, and under the ſhadow of his wings; and this ſhall be one great difference between this laſt, and all the other preceding Perſecutions; For in the former, the moſt eminent and ſpiritual Miniſters and Chriſtians did generally ſuffer moſt, and were moſt violently fallen upon, but in this laſt Perſecution, theſe ſhall be preſerved by God as a Seed to partake of that Glory which ſhall immediately follow and come upon the Church, as ſoon as ever this ſtorm ſhall be over; for as it ſhall be the ſharpeſt, ſo it ſhall be the ſhorteſt Perſecution of them all; and ſhall only take away the groſs Hypocrites and formal Profeſſors, but the true Spiritual Believers ſhall be preſerved till the Calamity be over-paſt.*

I then asked him by what means or Inſtruments this great Tryal ſhould be brought on. He anſwered, By *the Papiſts*; I replyed, that it ſeemed to me very improbable they ſhould be able to do it, ſince they were now little countenanced, and but few in theſe Nations, and that the hearts of the People were more ſet againſt them then ever ſince the Reformation.

mation. He answered again, 'That it would be by the 'hands of *Papists*, and in the way of a suddain Massacree; 'and that the then Pope should be the chief Instrument of it.

All this he Spake with so great Assurance, and with the same serious and concerned Countenance, which I have before observed him to have, when I have heard him foretell some things which in all humane appearence were very unlikely to come to pass, which yet I my self have lived to see happen according to his prediction, and this made me give the more earnest attention to what he then uttered.

He then added, 'That the Papists were in his Opinion the '*Gentiles* spoken of in the 11th of the *Revelations*, to whom 'the outward Court should be left, that they might tread 'it underfoot; They having received the *Gentiles* worship 'in their adoring Images, and Saints departed, and in 'taking to themselves many Mediators; And this '(Said he) the *Papists* are now designing among them-'selves, and therefore be sure you be ready.

This was the Substance, & I think (for the greatest part) the very same words which this Holy man spake to me at the time beforementioned not long before his death, and which I writ down, that so great and notable a Prediction might not be lost and forgotten by my self nor others.

This gracious Man repeated the same things in Substance to his only daughter the Lady *Tyrril*, and that with many tears, and much about the same time that he had expresst what is aforesaid to me, and which the Lady *Tyrril* assured me of with her own mouth, to this purpose.

That opening the Door of his Chamber, She found him with his Eyes lift up to Heaven, and the tears running a pace down his Cheeks, and that he seemed to be in an Extasie, wherein he continued for about half an hour, not taking the least notice of her, though she came into the Room, but at last turning to her, he told her, That his thoughts had been taken up about the Miseries and Persecutions that were coming upon the Churches of Christ, which would be so sharp and bitter, that the contemplation of them had fetched those Tears from his Eyes, and that he hoped he should not

live

live to see it, but possibly she might, for it was even at the door; *Therefore take heed* (says he) *that you be not found sleeping.*

The same things he also Repeated to the Lady *Byssse*, Wife to the present Lord Chief Baron of *Ireland*, but with adding this circumstance, That if they brought back the King, it might be delayed a little longer, but (sayd he) *It will surely come, therefore be sure to look that you be not found unprepared for it.*

To conclude in the words of Dr. *Bernard*, speaking of this Excellent Person. 'Now howsoever I am as far from heeding of Prophesies this way as any, yet with me it is not 'Improbable, that so great a Prophet, so sanctified from his 'youth, so knowing & eminent throughout the Universal 'Church, might have at some special times more then Ordinary Motions and Impulses in doing the watchmans part, 'of giving warning of Judgments approaching.

FINIS.